

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 SY-10 EUR-25 CU-04 OMB-01 ST-01

FBO-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20

PC-04 NIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /161 W

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R 181020EGDEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1665

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, BG

SUBJECT: NATIONAL DAY OBSERVANCE

1. DESPITE REPORTED HALF DOZEN MINOR INCIDENTS OF VIOLENT
ATTACKS ON VARIOUS TARGETS, INCLUDING SOVIET
CULTURAL CENTER AND US EMBASSY MOTOR POOL, TWO-DAY
BANGLADESH NATIONAL DAY OBSERVANCE PASSED
QUIETLY.

THE CROWDS AT WIDE RANGE OF PARADES AND SPECIAL
PROGRAMS WERE RELATIVELY LIGHT AND TOP POLITICAL
LEADERS AVOIDED OPEN PUBLIC APPEARANCES ASIDE FROM
ATTENDANCE ON PARADE REVIEWING STAND. IN MUJIB'S
ADDRESS BROADCAST TO THE NATION, HE REPEATED LITANY
OF PAKISTANI DESTRUCTION DURING LIBERATION PERIOD,
CATALOGUED ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIS GOVERNMENT SINCE
THEN, AND CALLED FOR A WAR ON POVERTY, DISEASE,
CORRUPTION, AND HUNGER. MUJIB STRESSED THAT
DEVELOPMENT IS LONG TERM STRUGGLE AND EXPECTED THE

PEOPLE TO WORK HARD.

2. SEVERAL MOLOTOV COCKTAILS

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WERE HURLED AT SOVIET CULTURAL CENTER FRIDAY EVEVING
SHORTLY AFTER END OF PROGRAM WHICH FINANCE MINISTER
TAJUDDIN AHMED ATTENDED. NO DAMAGE OR INJURIES RESULTED.
ABOUT 0500 SUNDAY MORNING THREE MOLOTOV COCKTAILS WERE
THROWN OVER FENCE INTO US EMBASSY MOTOR POOL COMPOUND.
QUICK ACTION WITH FIRE EXTINGUISHERS BY NIGHT CREW
PREVENTED ANY DAMAGE. OTHER TARGETS OF SIMILAR
ATTACKS WERE OFFICES OF AWAMI LEAGUE NEWSPAPER
"BANGLAR BANI", THE INDIAN AIRLINES, AND THE INLAND
WATER TRANSPORTATION AND RAILLINE WAS ALSO SABOTAGED.
ATTACKS, PRESUMABLY BY EXTREMISTS, APPEARED TO BE HALF
HEARTED ATTEMPTS TO DRAW ATTENTION RATHER THAN TO DO
SERIOUS DAMAGE. AT DAWN SUNDAY EMBASSY PERSONNEL
ALSO HEARD OTHER EXPOLSIONS AND SMALL ARMS FIRE IN
VICINTY OF CAR POOL COMPOUND AND IN DOWNTOWN
COMMERCIAL AREA BUT WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF TARGETS.
NEWBERRY

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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